

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /080 W
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O R 111636Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC 2794
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USUN NEW HORK 1062
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6879

BUDAPEST AND BUCHAREST FOR COUNSELOR NIMETZ

FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, US
SUBJECT: REACTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S NEW YORK MEETINGS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM AMEMBASSY ATHENS REPEATED
ACTION BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE, INFO BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE AND
INFO ROUTINE SECSTATE ANKARA LONDON NICOSIA USNATO USUN
AND ATHENS. QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9244

BELGRADE FOR COUNSELOR NIMETZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, US
SUBJECT: REACTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S NEW YORK MEETINGS

1. VERY LITTLE INFORMATION HAS BEEN REPORTED HERE ON THE MEETINGS
FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS HAD IN NEW YORK WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND
CLARK CLIFFORD. ALTHOUGH THE FORMER RECEIVED SOME COVERAGE BY THE
MEDIA (ATHENS 9026 NOTAL), THE LATTER WAS HARDLY MENTIONED. THE

BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL BILATERAL MEETING LIKEWISE RECEIVED SCANT ATTENTION.

2. IN ADDITION, VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETINGS HAS APPEARED SINCE THE MINISTER'S RETURN TO ATHENS. BITSIOS ARRIVED HERE FROM NEW YORK, VIA A ONE DAY STOPOVER IN PARIS, ON OCTOBER 5. CONTRARY TO THE USUAL PRACTICE, HIS ARRIVAL WAS NOT COVERED BY THE GREEK MEDIA, ALTHOUGH THEY DID REPORT THAT HE CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS RIGHT AFTER HIS RETURN TO BRIEF HIM ON THE RESULTS OF HIS ACTIVITIES AT THE UNGA. AS OF THE END OF LAST WEEK, OUR MFA WORKING-LEVEL CONTACTS ON CYPRIOT AND TURKISH AFFAIRS WERE LIKEWISE UNINFORMED ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK, CLAIMING THERE HAD BEEN VERY LITTLE REPORTING FROM NEW YORK AND THAT THEY EXPECTED TO BE BRIEFED EVENTUALLY NOW THAT THEIR MINISTER WAS BACK.

3. BITSIOS HAS A REGULAR BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING WITH POLITICAL EDITORS ON SATURDAYS. IT WAS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD MAKE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT HIS NEW YORK DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING CYPRUS AND RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AVAILABLE DURING LAST SATURDAY'S SESSION. HOWEVER, ALL THAT CAME OUT OF THE BRIEFING WAS A STORY CARRIED IN THE SUNDAY PRESS AND BY THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD CONCLUDED, FOLLOWING HIS VARIOUS TALKS IN NEW YORK, THAT GREECE'S PRESTIGE ABROAD IS HIGH AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARDS GREECE. THE MINISTER HAD ASCERTAINED, CONFIDENTIAL

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WROTE THE NEWSPAPERS, THAT "THE CLIMATE IN FAVOR OF GREEK VIEWS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM ARE NOW MUCH MORE FAVORABLE." DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN ATHENS (I.E., BITSIOS ON BACKGROUND AND NOT FOR AT-TRIBUTION) WERE CITED AS SAYING THAT THERE WAS NOW A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE BY RESPONSIBLE WESTERN OFFICIALS WHO CONSIDER THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. FOR THIS TO BE POSSIBLE, THE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CITED BY THE NEWSPAPERS STRESSED, TURKEY SHOULD MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, AS THE GREEK SIDE HAS ALREADY DONE.

4. APPARENTLY, AT LEAST IN PART, BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF ANY DETAILED OFFICIAL GOG BACKGROUNDING ON BITSIOS' NEW YORK MEETINGS, THE PRESS HERE HAS BEEN QUOTING EXTENSIVELY FROM NEW YORK REPORTS IN TURKISH MILLIYET FROM ITS CORRESPONDENT BIRAND. THE ESSENCE OF THESE STORIES IS THAT IN RESPONSE TO U.S. PRESSURES, THE TURKS ARE NOW WILLING TO DISCUSS THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION BUT ONLY AS PART OF A GENERAL CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. MOREOVER, IN ORDER TO GET THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO LIFTED, THE TURKS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE "PROMISES" BUT REJECT, FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST, ANY COMMITMENTS IN WRITING CONCERNING TURKISH ACTIONS FOR PROGRESS IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

5. RELATED TO THIS ARE STORIES OUT OF BELGRADE OVER THE WEEKEND, ATTRIBUTED TO DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES AT THE CSCE CONFERENCE, THAT TURKEY IS ABOUT TO PROPOSE A FIVE-MEMBER CONFERENCE ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THE TURKISH PLAN ENVISAGES THE PARTICIPATION OF GREECE, TURKEY AND GREAT BRITAIN, AS THE GUARANTOR POWERS, AND THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES. FINALLY, OVER THE WEEKEND THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED A DENIAL BY THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT THAT THERE WAS A U.S. PLAN (AS HAD BEEN REPORTED IN NICOSIA) CALLING FOR THE DIVISION OF THE ISLAND INTO THREE ZONES -- ONE FOR EACH COMMUNITY AND A THIRD ONE WHERE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER JOINT SERVICES WOULD BE LOCATED.

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